

If your son or daughter is being suspended or expelled from a Metro School, the school must follow certain rules.



Knowing those rules will allow you to advocate for your child and will give you tools to help your child succeed in school!

Note: If your child has a disability or gets special education services, he or she is also protected in the discipline process by state and federal law. Contact us for more information.

*Still have questions?
Call us!*

A stack of four books with a red apple and a yellow pencil resting on top of the stack.

The Kids' Rights Program
615-880-3710
Advocacy and Legal Representation for Parents and Students

This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee, Department of Finance and Administration, Office of Criminal Justice Programs and is supported by Award #2099-SU-B9-0002 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, USDJ.

**Has your child been expelled?
Know your child's rights!**



Expulsions in Metro Nashville Public Schools

What if my student is being suspended for more than ten days?

If your student is being suspended for more than ten days, this is called an **expulsion**. The principal must tell you about your right to **appeal** the expulsion and the Alternative Learning Center (ALC) that your student can attend.

If your child is expelled for a zero tolerance (ZT) offense, the appeals process and the rules are different. See our Zero Tolerance Brochure.

How long do I have to appeal the decision?

You have **5 days** from the time you receive notice of the expulsion **and** of your right to appeal. The notice may be verbal (a call from school) or in writing.

For what reasons can I appeal?

You can appeal if your student did not commit the offense. You can also appeal if you feel the punishment is too harsh.

How do I request an appeal?

On your student's expulsion notice, you will see the name and number of the Discipline Coordinator. You may call him or her directly, send an email, or send a letter. If you call, make sure to keep a written record of the phone call.

How long will they take to set up an appeal?

The Discipline Coordinator must set the appeal within **10 days of the first day of the expulsion**. This means the appeal could happen very quickly!

What will happen at the first appeal?

The first appeal will be heard by a group of three principals from other schools. The school will tell their side of the story, and your student will tell his or her side of the story. Then, the board will ask questions and decide if the incident really happened as the school says it did. The Board may find that your child did not commit the offense and overturn the expulsion. Even if your child committed the offense, the Board can shorten the length of the expulsion. **You have the right to bring an attorney to all discipline appeals.**

If my student loses the first appeal, can I appeal again?

Yes, if your student loses the first appeal, you can appeal to an administrator to hear the case again. You can appeal if your student's Due Process rights were violated (see our suspension brochure), as a plea for mercy, or if you have new evidence.

What happens if my student loses the second appeal?

If your student loses the second appeal, you can write a letter asking the Board of Education to hear your case a third time.

What can I do if my student's expulsion is not overturned through the appeal process?

The Director of Schools can shorten the length of your child's expulsion. You can send a letter asking for a "modification of expulsion" to Dr. Jesse Register, Director of Schools at 2601 Bransford Ave, Nashville, TN 37204.

What should my student do while the expulsion is being appealed, or if it is upheld?

Your student has the option to go to an **Alternative Learning Center**. When the principal tells you about the expulsion, he or she should also tell you which ALC your student can attend.

Is an Alternative Learning Center a real Metro School?

At an ALC, any credits your student earns will be transferred back to your school of zone. ALC's also offer Special Education.

Can my student be suspended or expelled from an ALC?

Yes, but only for the number of days in the original expulsion. If your student gets in trouble at an ALC, the school cannot add time on to his or her expulsion.